



***The Pensacola-  
Marianna District***

President Joseph Johnson

***The Quincy  
District***

President Henry McGill

***The Tallahassee District***

President Eileen S. Warner

*The Official Quarterly Publication of the Florida Conference Lay Organization*

January 2012

***The  
Lay  
men's  
Voice***

***From the President's Pen***

Greetings:

I want to thank the lay organizations of the local, district and conference for the support given in 2011. Now that 2012 is here, there is still plenty of work to be done. The CLO is celebrating 100 years of existence; therefore, I am requesting that each lay organization that celebrates an annual lay day recognize the accomplishments of the organization. Each district president should be able to provide you with material on the milestones of the lay organization.



The month of January is the time that District Conferences are held. The Lay Organization needs to play an active role in the teaching and training that will occur at these meetings. As we move forward, the upcoming mid-year and the General Conference are staring us in the face because of the part that the lay will play in these activities. We have been asked to financially support a monetary gift for the Episcopal Leaders, scholarship, and budget. Your district president will be contacting each local lay organization for assistance with these matters.

Secondly, the delegates and alternates to the General Conference will work on new rules and regulations to make our Zion better and assisting with bringing back a new leadership team.

Finally, let us not forget the activities that need to be completed in the districts. We should start looking at candidates for the awards that are given annually by the Lay Organization. Also, the FCLO has to put together events for fund raisers. Remember, we can do all things through Christ that strengthens us.

Johnnie Hill, President  
Florida Conference Lay Organization

***Happy New Year!***



How well do you know the AME Church? The Training Corner provided by  
Mr. John W. Love, Florida Conference Director of Lay Activities.



Mr. John W. Love  
Director of Lay Activities

## The Class and Class-Leaders

1. What are class-leaders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church?

*They are sub-pastors, and as such are appointed by the preacher in charge. The minister is bound to take heed of all the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made him/her overseer, and to enable him/her to discharge this duty the more effectively, the leader is a proxy-pastor.*

2. What should be the qualifications of class-leaders?

*They should be of deep personal piety, mature experience, ability to give religious counsel and advice, wisely and affectionately, and to influence the members, young and old, to the systematic discharge of their Christian duties. They should be well versed in the Discipline of the church and the Bible.*

3. Who instituted the class-leaders?

*John Wesley, at the very birth of Methodism.*

4. How many members are allowed to a leader?

*Twelve (12)*

5. What is the duty of class-leaders?

*To see each person in his/her class once a week at least, in order, first, to inquire how their souls prosper; second, to advise, reprove, comfort or exhort, as occasion may require; third, to receive what they are willing to give to the church.*

*To meet the ministers and stewards of the society once a week, on order, first, to inform the minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly and will not be reproved; second to pay the stewards what they have received from their several classes in the week preceding.*

6. What should a leader infer when he/she meets his/her class and finds a member absent?

*That the member is sick, or dead, or has been unexpectedly summoned away from home or that there is indisposition in the family, for every good Methodist will endeavor to be as class.*

7. Who shall examine the class-leaders concerning their gifts and usefulness?

*The pastor in charge should do it in the Official Board at his/her pleasure. But the Presiding Elder should always make it a part of his/her Quarterly conference duties, though he/she may only have time to examine two or there.*

8. What portion of the Discipline, of all others, should a class-leader be most familiar with?

*The twenty-five (25) Articles of Religion*

## The Pensacola-Marianna District



The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the PMD District Lay meeting will be held at Pensacola-Marianna District Complex - 4199 Hickory Lane Marianna on January 21, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Elder James H Davis has invited all pastors, ministers and laity of the Pensacola-Marianna District for a District Luncheon.

### *Around the PMD...*



## The Quincy District Lay Organization

The Lay Organization of the Quintessential Quincy District is moving forward into a "New Year." We are busy training the Laity of the District.

We meet each month on the 2nd Saturday, unless there is a scheduling conflict with the work of our Presiding Elder Mary Williams Robinson. Our meeting attendance is from 35 to 50 members per meeting. We are proud to have Mr. Johnnie Hill, Jr, Florida Conference President in attendance at our meetings.

Quincy District is ready to pay the first-half of the Conference Budget assigned to us.

President Henry McGill and others, along with Florida Conference President Johnnie Hill, Jr. traveled to Snow Hill AME Church for their election of Lay Officers. Officers were properly installed and Snow Hill is ready to go to work.

The Quincy District is in the process of planning a District Social. More information will be given on this as plans are finalized.

We are moving onward and upward. More news to come as we "Trail Blaze" our own paths. Look forward to hearing from us in the future.

Brother Henry McGill, President





## The Tallahassee District

The members of the *Terrific and Talented* Tallahassee District Lay Organization continue to blaze trails and lead the way with visionary programs and activities. During the December bi-monthly meeting, Reverend Melvin Bell and the members of St. Paul Chaires Lay Organization opened their doors and hosted the District Lay Holiday Fellowship Meeting. District members took the stage and displayed tremendous talents through poetry recitation and the performance of dramatic monologues; however, the holiday treat came in the form of an extremely talented ensemble comprised of five men who performed a medley of Christmas songs. The ensemble, dressed appropriately in Christmas attire, serves as the Male Chorus at St. Paul..The ensemble sang various renditions of songs that have traditionally rang melodiously throughout the Christmas season. Young adults, Kyle Harris and Victoria Johnson, performed the Biblical version of the Christmas story. The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Tallahassee District Lay Organization will be held on February 11th. The place will be announced at a later date.



**Photo 1:** The St. Paul Chaires Family welcomes the TDLO. **Photo 2:** Young Adult Representative Kyle Harris and Victoria Johnson perform The Christmas Story **Photo 3:** The St, Paul Chaires Male Chorus provides Christmas music for the membership.  
**Member Outreach - Photo 4:** The Bethel AME Church Lay Organization prepares a monthly breakfast for the Bethel membership.

# **The 67th Annual Session of the**

## **Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization**

### **(Hosted by the Florida Annual Conference Lay Organization)**

The Florida Conference Lay Organization hosted the 67th Annual Session of the Episcopal District Lay Organization in the beautiful city of Pensacola, Florida at the Pensacola Marriott Grande Hotel. The hotel was completely destroyed by a recent hurricane but renovations made the historical building accommodating for the hosting of the convention.

The week was filled with informative business sessions and workshops. Thursday evening concluded with our Annual Awards Banquet. This was an evening of elegance and grace as the members and friends of the 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization assembled to celebrate the past accomplishments of lay persons and community builders, and the future leaders of our Zion by awarding educational scholarship to students from various conferences. Ms. Judith Hollinhead introduced the Dias filled with President Nichols, DOLA Patricia Wright, John Henry Powell, Sr., Jennifer Lawson, worship leader and Connectional Correspondence Secretary Eileen S. Warner.

The prayer of Invocation was offered by Pastor Morris our host Pastor. Lift every voice was the opening selection lead by Mr. Willie J. Williams followed by the welcome by Sister Warner, where she stated "We answered the call." Jai Ingraham featured us with a melody "I'm building me a home". Grace was offered by Rev. Calvin Griffin, Pastor of St. Paul AME Church in Blountstown. We feasted on a delicious dinner consisting of Mixed Green Salad (with balsamic Vinaigrette or Creamy Peppercorn Dressing), Plumb Sautéed Citrus Marinated Chicken Breast (drizzled with lime butter sauce on a bed of almond lemon rice pilaf), steamed broccoli, oven fresh rolls, dessert of Key Lime pie. The awards presentation with Mrs. Loretta Coppock, Director Commission on Program and Activities and Assistant Director Lolita Brown. The Scholarship presentation was presented by Mrs. Beulah B. Gregory, chair. The awards are as follow:

#### **Scholarship Awards**

South Conference- Dariel White  
West Coast Conference- Omar J. Woodard  
East Conference- Biron Eason

#### **Florida Conference-Victoria Johnson**

Music Scholarship- Tomasena Jones (South)

#### **Anvil Award**

Tyrone Presley-Central Conference

#### **Hall of Fame**

#### **Judith Hollinhead, Florence Murphy-Florida Conference**

Alphonso Simpson, Lenora White-West Coast Conference

Charles Jackson, Tyrone Presley-Central Conference

Maria Pearson, Mary Ward-East Conference

Buster McFadden-South Conference

Roslyn Johnson, Selina McPhee- Bahamas Conference

Outstanding Layperson of 2011

James L. Williams-East Conference

Community Service Award

John Henry Powell, Sr.

#### **Soldier of the Cross**

#### **Ann McCelvy-Florida Conference**



President Nichols presented service awards to members who assisted in hosting the Connectional Regional Training in Jacksonville. LuCretia McBride, Patricia Wright, Joseph Coppock, Johnson, St. Paul AME Church & St. Stephen AME Church Connectional YAR scholarship to Jai Ingraham- South Conference. Closing remarks were given by President Nichols ending with the Lay Benediction. The evening ended in celebration through dance, where many of the members participated in line dancing.

The closing session of the 67th Annual Session of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization will follow on Friday June 24, 2011 with the presentation of reports and recommendations from the Organization and Structure, Program and Activities, Personnel and Procedure, and the Statistics and Finance Commissions. A memorial service is planned by the Chaplain followed by remarks from President Nichols. The West Coast Conference made a presentation inviting the Organization to the 68th Annual Convention

When the Electrifying Eleventh does anything, they do it  
"ELECTRIFYING"  
and Right!  
The 146th Session of  
The Florida Annual Conference - Lay Witness Worship Service  
Thursday, August 25, 2011  
Sister Vivian Cromartie, Staff Reporter

Who said that ministers can't sing? Well, I'm here to tell you that *The Voices of Ministry* from the Electrifying 11th, under the direction of Rev. S. Gerrard Lindsey not only can "Preach", but they can "Sang!"

They really put some fire in the electricity with their rendition of old Negro Gospel Spirituals; and when they finished, we could have received the benediction and went home. But we would have missed a real treat from the young men known as, "**The Zion Boyz**", from Mount Zion A.M.E. Church, Havana, Florida, under the pastorate of Rev. Freddie Nathan Tellis, as they danced to "It's Already Done."

But the best was yet to come, as the new Presiding Elder of the Tallahassee District, Rev. Dr. Carlton L. Taylor, delivered an electrifying message from Romans 12:1-5: "*It's Transformation Time.*" Dr. Taylor took a page from *the Williams Brothers* and challenged us to sweep around our own doors before we try to sweep around someone else's. He challenged us to be like the *Transformers* from the movie and prepare ourselves for the battle against evil. So you see, the Electrifying Eleventh not only gives it to you straight, but we give it to you right, served with love. Don't try to put out the fire... you may burn yourself!

Many thanks to Rev. Dr. Taylor, The Voices of Ministry, The Zion Boyz, The Laity of the Eleventh, and much love to God almighty.

Edited by AJSG



The African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Eleventh Episcopal District  
The Florida Conference

**Day of Sharing, Local Ministry Ordination  
&  
Deaconess Consecration Service  
Saturday, December 3, 2011**

The genesis of the Day of Sharing in the 11th Episcopal District can be traced back to the time Bishop Frank Curtis Cummings arrived in the 11th Episcopal District from his assignment in the 1st Episcopal District. In the 1st District, they had a gathering in December as a form of a "Helps Ministry." Upon arrival in the District, Bishop Cummings encountered Presiding Elder J.H. Blake of the then South Florida Conference. Presiding Elder Blake had a desire to see a gathering whose goal would be to help and assist widows of the church. Elder Blake made the case for this idea as a "helps ministry" to bring people together showing love and support, and in a real and tangible way, demonstrate to the recipients that they have not been forgotten. The first Day of Sharing series held in the District was held at or around Christmas of 1993, and the initial Day of Sharing is believed to have taken place at Bethel AME Church, Pompano.

Later, under the leadership of Bishop John Hurst Adams, beginning in 2001, the Ordination of the Local Deacons and Elders, as well as the Consecration of Deaconesses were removed from the site of the Annual Conferences and added to the respective Conferences' Annual Day of Sharing.

This year in the Florida Conference, over \$23,000/00 was collected for this unselfish act of sharing. Bishop McKinley Young delivered a powerful sermon entitled "We Came to Worship". Bishop Young emphasized the fact that you can not truly worship unless you bring the right kind of gift. He made it known that if you continue to go to church each Sunday and leave the way you came in you are wasting God's time. As the proclaimer of the Word during his last Day of Sharing, Bishop Young admonished the worshippers to start over again and not let another year go by without working and studying.

Bishop Young delivered a penetrating Word that pierced the soul of all individuals in attendance.



## CLO 100 Anniversary Celebration



### CELEBRATION!

Thursday  
June 28, 2012

Centennial  
Celebration

49th Quadrennial  
Session

*Happy Birthday Connectional Lay Organization!*

The Annual Lay Day Committee working with the Program and Activities Commission is asked to put together a program to get more attendance from the churches. It is suggested that the program be held on a Sunday afternoon. This may get more pastors to attend. This program should highlight the 100 years of the CLO.

This is the Centennial (100) year of the Lay Organization. Each district and local lay organization should recognize the 100 year observance in their Annual Lay Day Program. Each district president is asked to provide the information on the Centennial to the local organization. Please use the icons from the CLO as a part of your program layout.

## January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

### What is Cervical Health Awareness Month?

The United States Congress designated January as Cervical Health Awareness Month. During January, you may wish to highlight issues related to cervical cancer, HPV disease and the importance of early detection. Some of the issues you may wish to highlight are personal stories of women and family members/caregivers battling issues related to their persistent HPV/pre-cancer and/or cervical cancer. You may wish to highlight recent advances and research in the prevention, detection and treatment of cervical cancer or HPV. You can highlight the success of your local/state/ national early detection cervical cancer screening and treatment programs and human-interest stories on the importance of early detection, education and the emotional issues related to battling cervical cancer and HPV.

### AND.....KNOW THE FACTS:

- ☐ Cervical cancer is the 5<sup>th</sup> most common cancer in women worldwide with approximately 471,000 new cases diagnosed each year. It's sobering to think that a woman dies of cervical cancer approximately every 2 minutes.
- ☐ In less developed countries, this type of cancer is the second most common in women and accounts for up to 300,000 annual deaths. 80% of the cases occur in low-income or middle-income countries.
- ☐ Cervical cancer is the most common cancer for women in Central America and Southern Africa. The Caribbean, other parts of Africa, South America and south Eastern Asia also have very high incidences of this disease. Unfortunately, many women from these areas don't have access to routine exams such as pap smears.
- ☐ Although the average age of diagnosis is 50, women as young as 17 can contract the disease.

**CHANGE  
THE RISK  
- GET A  
REGULAR  
PAP  
TEST!**

The western journal of medicine has published an informative online article entitled «cervical cancer in the developing world» .

### What Can You Do?

As someone who is interested in educating and advocating for increased knowledge of cervical cancer and HPV disease, you can do a lot. Motivation is the key, that, and the willingness to make contacts with local media. As part of a nation-wide education effort surrounding Cervical Health Awareness Month, we are asking that national, state and local supporters of the NCCC mobilize to get the word out about cervical cancer and HPV.

### How Can You Gain the Media's Interest?

State and local media are firmly committed to making the news they report relevant to their readers. In other words, they like to report what's happening in the neighborhoods they serve.

Strive to introduce elements of local interest to your story "pitch." There are a number of simple ways this can be achieved, just be creative.

### Some examples include:

- ☐ Make available local cervical cancer survivors for interviews. Local human interest "angles" are always popular with reporters, and their readers or viewers



*Please forward the  
information for the  
Conference Directory  
to*

*Mr. John Love!  
Post Office Box 1554  
Quincy, Florida  
32342*

## Presidential Concerns

To All Conference Officers, District Presidents and Commission Directors:

The new conference year is here. The Planning Meeting just ended; and the General Conference is in our future. However; there is work to do within our conference for the Lay Organization. As stipulated at the Quarterly Meeting at Mt. Zion AMEC, Crestview, Fl. the Lay Organization needs to generate some funds for the successful operation of this organization. Therefore; I am asking that each Commission work together when necessary to formulate a plan of action that will benefit our lay organization. Each district president is asked to appoint one(1) member to serve on each of the four commissions. This action should take place as soon as possible so that the Commissions can get to work.

The budget for the conference year 2011-2012 was approved at the last meeting. Each district is allocated \$4,667.00. Each district should start collecting the lay budget from the churches. We need to pay half of the budget to the Episcopal District prior to Mid - Year. Thank for your assistance in this matter.

Furthermore; as we equip the Saints for service and break new ground to meet the challenges facing our Zion, it is imperative for us to work together to fulfill our obligation to the church. Therefore, the following proposals are submitted for your action/consideration:

The Program and Activities Commission along with other interested per-

sons should start working on the February, 2012 fund raising activity approved at the last meeting.

The Annual Lay Day Committee working with the Program and Activities Commission is asked to put together a program to get more attendance from the churches. I am suggesting that the program be held on a Sunday afternoon. This may get more pastors to attend. This program should highlight the 100 years of the CLO.

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The Florida Conference DOLA will be contacting each district for information to put together a Lay Directory. You are asked to assist him in this endeavor.

# The Florida Conference Lay Organization

## Officers

President: Mr. Johnnie Hill, Jr.  
1st Vice President: Mr. Shepherd Myrick  
2nd Vice President: Mr. Joseph Johnson  
3rd Vice President: Mrs. Eileen S. Warner  
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Ethel Wooten  
Assistant Recording Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy Harley  
Corresponding Secretary: Ms. Sandra O. Gregg  
Treasurer: Mrs. Estelle Hogan  
Financial Secretary: Mrs. Catherine Johnson  
Chaplin: Mrs. Norma Merritt  
Historiographer: Mrs. Willie M. Long-Cobb  
Parliamentarian: Mr. James Sawyer  
Director of Lay Activities: Mr. John W. Love  
Director of Public Relations: Ms. Vivian E. Cromartie  
Young Adult Representative: Ms. Auja Bush

## Commissions

Director of Statistics and Finance: Mr. Robert Lane  
Assistant Director: Ms. Cassandra Jenkins  
Director of Program and Activities: Mrs. Eileen S. Warner  
Assistant Director: Mr. Raymond Jackson  
Director of Personnel and Procedure: Ms. Judith Hollinhead  
Assistant Director: Mr. Donald Russell  
Director of Organization and Structure: Mrs. Connie Jenkins-Pye  
Assistant Director: Mr. Orenthious "OJ" Hill

## District Presidents

Pensacola/Marianna District: Mr. Joseph Johnson  
Quincy District: Mr. Henry W. McGill  
Tallahassee District: Mrs. Eileen S. Warner

## Advisors

Mr. Harry K. Holt, Mr. George Stakley, Mrs. Queen Brown,  
Mr. Donald Russell



## *Dates to Remember*

Eleventh Episcopal District Lay  
Organization

Fall Executive Board Meeting

January 13 -14, 2012

Sarasota, Florida

The Hyatt Regency

\$99.00 per night

1-888-421-1442

Deadline: December 13, 2011

Group Name: African Methodist  
State Conference

Florida Conference Valentine's  
Banquet  
FEBRUARY

Quincy and Tallahassee District  
Bi-Monthly Lay Meeting  
February 11th, 2012

CLO Spring Executive Board  
March 29th - 31st

In conjunction with the  
Retirement Celebration Banquet  
honoring Bishop C. Garnett and  
Supervisor Ernestine Lee  
Henning  
Columbus, Ohio

Episcopal District Lay Convention  
June 11th - 15th  
Sarasota, Florida

49th Quadrennial Session of the  
General Conference  
June 27th - July 4th, 2012  
Gaylord Opryland Resort and  
Convention Center  
Nashville, Tennessee

"The Laymen's Voice"  
Forward ALL information for  
publication to: Mrs. Eileen S.  
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